

**STATE SENATOR • IRMA CLARK-COLEMAN • 3RD DISTRICT**

# **Clark-Coleman Press Release**

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## **CLARK-COLEMAN DELIVERS GRANDPARENTS DAY GIFT: VISITATION WITH ADOPTED GRANDCHILDREN**

LANSING – Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman (D-Detroit) has given Michigan grandparents another reason to celebrate one of the country’s newer holidays: they will soon be able to seek visitation with their adopted grandchildren.

Today, the legislature presented to the Governor Sen. Clark-Coleman’s bill, S.B. 420, which allows grandparents whose own child is deceased to seek visitation with their grandchild if that child is adopted by a step-parent. Michigan will now have a constitutional law to provide for grandparents and grandchildren to have access to each other under certain circumstances.

“The passage of this bill brings us closer to defining relationships and maintaining family ties in today’s ever-evolving family structure,” Sen. Clark-Coleman said. “I’m a grandparent and I understand the depth of love we have for our grandchildren.”

The bi-partisan measure won unanimous support in Senate committee and passed both chambers en route to Gov. Granholm’s office where it awaits her signature.

Grandparents Day was first recognized by former President Jimmy Carter in 1979 as a way in which to celebrate family values. In the 27 years since that time, Grandparents Day has grown in stature and is now as a springboard for family events, volunteer efforts and support for grandparents – some of whom are rearing their grandchildren.

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*State Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman represents the 3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District. She sits on the Banking & Financial Institutions, Education, Families & Human Services, and Senior Citizens & Veterans Affairs committees.*